

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03

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P 281750Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7089

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USMISSION GNEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CA, UN

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REQUEST TO POSTPONE UN CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS

REF: A) STATE 175009; B) USNATO 3906; C) OTTAWA 2726

1. SVOBODA, DEP DIR UN POL AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MIN. EXTAFF, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF JULY 25 CANADIAN POSITION DESCRIBED IN PARA 9 REF A. THAT IS, GOC INTENDS TO PRESS HARD FOR THE UN CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN TORONTO BUT WOULD GO ALONG WITH GENEVA IF THAT IS TO BE THE UN WILL. HE STRESSED THAT THIS WAS RECOMMENDATION OF OFFICIALS IN MIN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BUT THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT THE DECISION OF "THE POLITICIANS" WOULD BE. AS NOTED IN PARA 1 REF C, THE DECISION TO REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF THE TORONTO CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS WAS MADE BY THE CABINET WHICH OVERRODE EXTAFF RECOMMENDATION TO HOLD CONGRESS AS SCHEDULED BUT WITH SCREENING OF PLO OBSERVERS. WHILE HE INDICATED HE EXPECTED THAT THE CABINET WOULD GO ALONG WITH EXTAFF RECOMMENDATION THIS TIME, HE DID NOT DISMISS POSSIBILITY OF CABINET TAKING SOME OTHER POSITION AS YET UNDEFINED. SVOBODA ADDED THAT GOC POSITION CONTRARY TO DECISION OF UN COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES WOULD PUT CANADIANS IN CONTRADICTORY POSTURE SINCE THEY WERE A MOVING FORCE IN THE

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FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE AND HAD RECENTLY PROPOSED CERT-

AIN BASIC GUIDELINES (UNSPECIFIED) FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE. BEGIN COMMENT: OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT CABINET WILL ADOPT EXTAFF VIEW BUT CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF CABINET DECIDING ON SOME OTHER COURSE. TO BE ONLY COUNTRY OUTSIDE THE FENCE IF CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE HELD ELSEWHERE WOULD PUT CANADIANS IN PARTICULARLY UNFAVORABLE LIGHT. AT SAME TIME, MACEACHEN IN STATEMENT ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT REQUEST TOOK PAINS TO INDICATE THAT, IN CANADIAN VIEW, SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS COULD NOT BE HELD ANYWHERE THIS YEAR. AND THIS THEME WAS IMPORTANT IN PAINTING DECISION IN GENERAL TERMS AND NOT JUST IN CONTEXT OF NARROW ISSUE OF ADMISSION OF PLO REPS TO CANADA. POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER CABINET OVERRIDE OF EXTAFF RECOMMENDATION WOULD EXACERBATE PRESENT EXTAFF GRUBBLING ABOUT CABINET HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE. SVOBODA CONFIRMED RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE IS A NOTICEABLE SCHISM BETWEEN CABINET AND SENIOR EXTAFF OFFICIALS ON FORMER'S HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE TO DATE AND VOCAL ALTHOUGH IN-HOUSE DISCONTENT IN EXTAFF RANKS. END COMMENT.

2. EMBOFF ASKED SVOBODA ABOUT CANADIAN PREPARATION OF RESOLUTION CONTAINING GROUND RULES FOR AVOIDING POLITICAL QUESTIONS IN UN TECHNICAL MEETINGS (REF B). SVOBODA ANSWERED THAT THE INITIAL SPADEWORK IS TO BE DONE IN HIS BUREAU AND THAT THEY WERE GOING TO START ON THE TASK ON THE 28TH. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS IN THE VERY EARLIEST STAGES OF THINKING.
JOHNSON

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